

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 071017Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3886

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION UN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T TOKYO 14291

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, CH, KS, TH

SUBJ: ROK MESSAGE TO PEKING

REF: TOKYO 14290(NOTAL)

1. DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH PM MIKI AND FONMIN MIYAZAWA (REPORTED REFTEL), THAI FONMIN CHATCHAI EXPRESSED VIEW SEVERAL TIMES THAT ROK SHOULD ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PRC. IN BRIEFING US, FIRST SE ASIA ACTING DIVDIR TSUKADA SAID THAT WHEN JAPANESE ASKED CHATCHAI WHAT EVIDENCE THERE WAS THAT PEKING WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH SEOUL, CHATCHAI MERELY RESPONDED THAT "TIMES HAVE GREATLY CHANGED" AND HE TOUGHT PEKING WOULD RESPOND IF SEOUL UNDERTOOK AN INITIATIVE. HE THEN REVEALED THAT ROK AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK CONTACTED HIM JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR TOKYO AND ASKED CHATCHAI TO CONTACT PRC EMBASSY IN TOKYO WITH MESSAGE THAT SEOUL WANTED TO START DIALOGUE WITH PEKING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. FONOFF (TSUKADA) BELIEVES CHATCHAI WAS IN TOUCH WITH PRC AMB CHEN CHU DURING HIS STAY AND PASSED ON SEOUL'S MESSAGE.

2. TSUKADA EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT CHATCHAI'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS VENTURE MIGHT BE RELATED TO HIS HOPE TO SUCCESSFULLY DRAFT AN
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ASEAN RESOLUTION ON KOREAS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL SIDES.

3. COMMENT: WE, LIKE FONOFF, ARE AT LOSS TO EXPLAIN CHATCHAI'S
OPTIMISM ABOUT PEKING'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SEOUL, BE WE ARE INTRIGUED
BY ALLEGED ROK INITIATIVE AS WELL AS ROLE CHATCHAI IS ATTEMPTING
TO PLAY. WE ARE PROBING FURTHER.
SHOESMITH

SECRET

NNN

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